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## ВОЛОНТЕРСЬКИЙ РУХ В УКРАЇНІ ТА НІМЕЧЧИНІ НАПРИКІНЦІ ХХ – НА ПОЧАТКУ ХХІ СТ.: ПОРІВНЯЛЬНІ АСПЕКТИ

Повномасштабне вторгнення російських військ в Україну у 2022 р. і тимчасова окупація частини її території актуалізували для світової громадськості питання розробки засобів подолання масштабних гуманітарних катастроф та забезпечення стабільності й безпеки населення Європейського континенту. Автори пропонованого дослідження розглядають волонтерський рух як потужний інструмент самоорганізації суспільства, що здатний посилити державні структури з метою подолання кризових явищ у сферах забезпечення обороноздатності країни, охорони здоров'я її населення та надання гуманітарної допомоги мігрантам.

**Ключові слова:** волонтерський рух, волонтери, гуманітарна катастрофа, гуманітарна допомога, добровічність, окупація, охорона здоров'я, мігранти, міграційна криза, російсько-українська війна.

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## THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN UKRAINE AND GERMANY IN THE LATE 20TH AND EARLY 21ST CENTURIES: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The full-scale invasion of Russian troops into Ukraine in 2022 and the temporary occupation of a part of its territory made the issue of developing means of overcoming large-scale humanitarian disasters and ensuring the stability and security of the population of the European continent relevant for the world public. The authors of the proposed study consider the volunteer movement as a powerful tool of self-organization of society, capable of strengthening state structures in order to overcome crisis phenomena in the areas of ensuring the country's defence capability, health protection of its population, and providing humanitarian aid to migrants.

**Key words:** volunteer movement, volunteers, humanitarian disaster, humanitarian aid, charity, occupation, health care, migrants, migration crisis, Russian-Ukrainian war.

**Problem statement.** The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops on February 24, 2022 and the temporary occupation of part of its territories became the most serious challenge to the global security system, democratic and human values in recent years. Ukraine and its partners have demonstrated the ability to activate their resources to counter Russian aggression at all levels – from international and state to organizations and even individuals. One of the most significant manifestations of the mobilization of internal reserves has been the self-organization of civil society in the form of the volunteer movement in Ukraine and Germany. Thus, the study of Ukrainian and German experience of charitable activities is an important prerequisite for the development and improvement of methods for overcoming global humanitarian crises.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** The study of the history of the formation and development of volunteer movements in Ukraine and Germany in the late 20th and early 21st centuries is reflected in the works of K. Pavliuk, I. Mazy, D. Gorelov, O. Kornievsky, O. Vanyushyna, T. Lyakh [1–5].

In general, scholars agree with the statement that the Ukrainian and German volunteer movements have managed to unleash their considerable potential and act as a force capable of representing their own country on the world stage. However, the issue of national specifics

of the organization of volunteer movement in Ukraine and Germany remains insufficiently covered.

**The purpose of the paper** is to compare the peculiarities of the formation and development of volunteer movements in Ukraine and Germany, to reveal their national characteristics and to find out the specifics of volunteer management.

**Main body.** The volunteer movement in Ukraine in the early 1990s was represented mainly by social services such as the «Helpline», which were focused on the prevention of drug addiction and AIDS [1]. Since 1992, Ukraine has been developing a state network of social services for youth, which were later reorganized into centres of social services for families, children and youth. The centres trained youth volunteer groups for educational activities to prevent tobacco use and alcohol dependence. At the same time, public organizations were formed to unite and coordinate volunteer activities. Gradually, the volunteer movement covered not only psychological and social services, but also proved itself in the human rights, cultural and environmental spheres. In 2003, volunteer activity in Ukraine was officially recognized and enshrined at the regulatory level by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution «On Approval of the Regulation on Volunteer Activity in the Field of Social Services» [6].

The late 20th and early 21st centuries went down in Ukrainian history as a period of socioeconomic crisis and political instability. The first large-scale activation of the volunteer movement was the Orange Revolution of November 22, 2004 – January 23, 2005. The country was shaken by massive civil disobedience actions provoked by the government's attempt to falsify the results of the 2004 presidential election. According to T. Stetskiy, one of the organizers of a long-lasting opposition rally on Kyiv's Independence Square, in November 2003, 40,000 volunteers were ready to join the protesters across the country within 10 days [7].

The next important milestone in the history of the Ukrainian volunteer movement was the preparation and holding of the 2012 FIFA World Cup. The Organizing Committee of EURO 2012 Ukraine provided statistics that, with a need for approximately 5.5 thousand volunteers, UEFA received almost 24 thousand applications from those who wished to become volunteers, the majority (90 %) of them were from Ukraine and Poland [2]. However, the «peaceful» development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine was interrupted by the events related to the Revolution of Dignity in 2013 and the beginning of the hybrid phase of the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2014. In 2013, 26 % of the Ukrainian population participated in the volunteer movement [3].

The mass anti-government protests in the centre of Kyiv took place in extreme conditions, so medical professionals were among the first to offer their assistance to Euromaidan participants. The public organization Initiative E+ took care of the wounded during the anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine, helped military medics, and purchased military ammunition and equipment. The organization provided treatment and support to wounded and sick soldiers. In addition, the team provided financial assistance and social support to the families of the killed, seriously wounded, deceased defenders, as well as families in need [8].

Psychologists V. Pohorily, H. Tsyganenko, N. Shaposhnyk were the initiators of the creation of a psychological service to help protesters. Already in March 2014, 300 volunteers worked in the «Maidan Psychological Service», whose services were used by about 16,000 people in just three months of protests. Subsequently, the organization was reformatted into the «Psychological Crisis Service», where 500 specialists work in 20 cities of Ukraine [9].

The public organization «Avtomaidan» became a mobile unit of the Euromaidans, which was engaged in blocking the streets, the government quarter and patrolling the area around the Maidan. Its biggest action was a campaign trip to the presidential residence in Mezhihirya, where about 2 thousand motorists were present [8].

The «Euromaidan SOS» organization took care of issues of legal protection. 500 lawyers working in different cities of Ukraine provided free legal consultations. The struggle for the release of Ukrainian political prisoners in Russia and Crimea became an

important area of activity of «Euromaidan SOS». Information support and technical support for protest actions were provided by volunteer organizations «IT-tent», «Maidan Open University», «Babylon13» [8].

The Russian-Ukrainian war significantly changed Ukrainian society. The disorganization of the state power in the first months after the victory of the Revolution of Dignity did not allow organizing a decent armed resistance to the Russian aggression in the southeast of Ukraine. The unsatisfactory logistical support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine called into question the success of the anti-terrorist operation. Therefore, the civil society took the army under its protection. During May-September 2014, more than 32 % of Ukrainians made money transfers to the Armed Forces. In addition, 23 % of citizens helped by means of charitable foundations and volunteer organizations, transferring moneys, things and products through these public institutions. 9 % of citizens participated in store actions, buying goods according to lists for the needs of the army and handing them over to volunteers. 7 % of Ukrainian citizens personally helped displaced people with things and money. 3 % were engaged in the direct collection of funds, medicines, and things and their delivery to the ATO area.

The focus of volunteers' activities in 2014 was to help the Ukrainian army and the wounded – 70 % of volunteers were engaged in this activity [3]. According to the results of sociological research, at that time, 54 % of volunteers were women and 46 % were men. More than half of the volunteers (53 %) had higher education, and 43 % of the volunteers were classified as middle class by sociologists [4]. The most well-known organizations at that time were the «People's Home Front», which included «Wheels of the People's Home Front» (supplying vehicles to the ATO), «Medical People's Home Front» (supplying medicines to the ATO), «Help Army», «Wings of the Phoenix», «Army SOS», «People's Project», «Volunteer Hundred», «Come Back Alive Charitable Foundation», «Combat UA», and «Ukraine-World», «Sisters of Victory», «Kryivka Vilnykh» Volunteer Center, All-Ukrainian Association «Patriot», Volunteer Association «Everyone Can Help», «Support the Army of Ukraine», Diana Makarova's «FOND» (Operational National Assistance Foundation), «Volunteers Without Borders» Foundation, and «All-Ukrainian Platform of Donbas». One of the most well-known volunteer organizations that helped displaced people was «Kharkiv Station» [10].

The main activities of volunteers in 2014–2015 were the collection and delivery of necessary resources to the ATO zone, the provision of medical assistance to victims during combat operations, assistance to displaced people, the recovery of the captives and the search for the unknown.

The COVID-2019 pandemic has become a new challenge for Ukraine's volunteer movement. Over the course of the pandemic, more than 4 million people have fallen ill in Ukraine, and more than 100,000 people have died [11]. The introduction of quarantine has complicated the work of volunteers. As of 2021, out of 576 charitable organizations in Ukraine, 60 % have effectively ceased

operations [12]. However, the available medical and organizational measures were unable to stop the rapid spread of the disease, and civil society had to come to the aid of the state again. Volunteering switched to the tactic of working in small or medium-sized groups (up to 30 people). The leading areas of activity were the provision of free legal aid and services to citizens in difficult life situations [12]. The introduction of a remote format of work with the use of Internet resources has become widespread, mainly in the field of education.

In June 2020, the «My Phone Friend» project was launched with the support of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Ukrainian Volunteer Service. About 7,000 young volunteers responded to the call to support people who found themselves alone during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of the quarantine, they have made 15,000 phone calls to provide moral support to the elderly, people with disabilities, and parents with many children [13].

Ukrainian society experienced another surge in volunteer activity because of the full-scale Russian armed aggression that began on February 24, 2022. Using the experience gained in 2014–2016, Ukrainian volunteer organizations managed to coordinate their actions with the state authorities in the shortest possible time. An effective and transparent system of accounting of the aid received for the needs of the Armed Forces and affected citizens was created and it was put into operation for domestic and international partners.

The widespread use of digital technologies has made it possible to optimize the work of charitable organizations. In a short period, a number of online platforms and web portals were established to create a joint information and communication space for volunteer organizations, government agencies, financial donors, and people in need of assistance. For example, the online platforms «People for Ukraine», «Volunteering in Ukraine», and «Home Front Work» have been launched. International online platforms and portals have been created to support Ukrainian refugees: «CLEAR Global and Translators», «UA Aid Centre», «Help People Leave Ukraine», «Tarjimly», «Support Ukraine», Shelter for Ukraine», «Russia invaded Ukraine» [14]. The adaptation of the current legislation to the needs of wartime allowed volunteers to be involved in the supply of high-tech equipment for the needs of the Ukrainian Defence Forces.

Turning to the history of the German volunteer movement, we must recognize that it is institutionally older than the Ukrainian one. Already in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, in most German settlements, social protection of the poor was organized through volunteer work [5]. The industrialization of the country led to a rapid increase in property inequality among the population, which resulted in an increase in the number of users of social services. Since churches and private charitable institutions were unable to cope with the situation, in the second half of the 19th century there was a need for state regulation of this process, i.e. state social security. In 1880, on the initiative of the German Charity

Congress, the «German Charitable Association for the Care of the Poor» was established, which was renamed the «German Union of Public and Private Welfare» in 1919.

World War I contributed to the internationalization of the volunteer movement. In 1920, a joint Franco-German project was implemented to create the first youth camp in Europe. It was located near Strasbourg [15]. German and French volunteers restored destroyed farms and villages. In the 2nd half of the 20th century, a number of state volunteer programs were launched in Germany, among which the largest was the «Volunteer Social Year» (1964). According to this program, German youth after graduating from school spent a year doing practical work in the social or environmental spheres. Since 1969, the «German Federal Volunteer Service» has been implementing the Au-Pair program. Volunteers from different countries live in German foster families and look after their children. Sometimes the list of duties includes simple household chores. A special feature of the program is that it gives volunteers the opportunity to learn German. Each participant has time off from work to attend language courses and do homework.

After the unification of Germany in 1990, the volunteer movement received new incentives for development. In 2002–2011, volunteer activity was considered an alternative to military service [16, p. 76]. The state offered support to volunteers in the form of tax benefits, child benefits, etc. With the assistance of the government, the «Federal Association of Voluntary Social Welfare Organizations» was created, which included charitable centres, foundations, and non-profit organizations. In 2000, the German Federal Parliament established the «Commission for the Study of Public Activities» to legislatively distinguish between different forms of charitable activities, optimize the development of volunteer networks at the federal, regional and local levels, and promote charitable activities. Involving representatives of the public sector and leading sociologists, the Commission collected and processed a significant amount of information on the state of the volunteer movement and proposed a national strategy for its development. Its key points were the nationwide programs «Voluntary Social Year» and «Voluntary Year of Environmental Service». Federal ministries were responsible for their implementation. For example, environmental protection has become an important area of the German volunteer movement. The German League for Nature and the Environment, which is funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, has become the main public association that has united environmental activists. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education supervise volunteer programs which participants take part in the activities of international organizations and scientific research. The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs support initiatives aimed at strengthening civil society and combating racism and xenophobia. The Ministry of the Interior, together with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, runs volunteer programs that address migrant issues. Largely, the

German volunteer movement was concerned about their fate [17, p.54].

In 2014–2023, the «European Volunteer Service» (EVS) program was implemented in the European Union, including Germany. Its participants assist to sick people, the disabled, the elderly, and refugees. Volunteer Centers have been established in almost every city in Germany, and there is an extensive network of public charities: the «Workers' Welfare Association», «Catholic Caritas», the «Parity Union», the «German Red Cross», the «Evangelical Church's Mercy Union», and others. The work of German volunteer organizations abroad is also notable. For example, since the early 1990s, volunteers of the «Atonement for Peace» (ASF) have been working in Ukraine to help former prisoners of ghettos, concentration camps, and ostarbeiters [18].

Thus, in the European model of social work, voluntary assistance to the population is part of the general state social assistance system and is an important element of it. The importance of this component especially increased in the early 2000s due to the intensification of international migration processes taking place in Germany. Due to its geopolitical location, Germany became one of the main participants in the European migration crisis in 2015–2022, provoked by the armed expansion of the Russian Federation. In 2015–2016, because of Russia's intervention in Syria, a significant part of the civilian population suffered from Russian aviation bombing. The 2020 report of the UN Human Rights Council called these actions a war crime [19]. By 2016, more than 5 million people had fled Syria to escape the war [20]. In 2015, about 430 thousand refugees from Syria and 276 thousand from Afghanistan and Iraq took refuge in Germany [21].

Meanwhile, the movement of Ukrainian migrants in Germany has intensified. Russia's occupation of the Crimean peninsula and the beginning of the «hybrid» war in Donbas in 2014 stirred up the political life of the 128,000-strong Ukrainian diaspora in Germany. For example, Ukrainian communities in Munich and Frankfurt am Main began raising funds to help the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the families of those killed in the fighting in eastern Ukraine [22]. In 2014, a Ukrainian-German volunteer organization created by the family of A. Garder started operating in Hamburg, raising funds for Euromaidan and equipment for Ukrainian hospitals [23]. Ukrainian non-governmental organizations in Bavaria contributed to the development of the Ukrainian volunteer movement in Germany: «Association of Ukrainian Organizations in Germany», Ukrainian Scout Organization «Plast», «Union of Ukrainian Youth in Germany», «Union of Ukrainian Students in Germany», Society «Ukraine», School Association «Ridna Shkola», School Association «Ukrainian Saturday School of Munich», «Ukrainians in Bamberg», «Ukrainians in Augsburg», «Ukrainians in Franconia», «Ukrainian Institute for Educational Policy», «Association of Ukrainian Women in Germany», Parafial Center of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, «Ukrainians in Freiburg», Ukrainian-German Society «Rhein-Neckar», «Ukrainian Atelier of Culture and Sports», etc.

Since the spring of 2019, the Ukrainian community's efforts have been aimed at submitting and promoting a petition to the Bundestag to recognize the Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932–1933 as genocide of the Ukrainian people. Representatives of the Ukrainian community in Bavaria were involved in implementing projects to help children whose parents were killed or were fighting in eastern Ukraine; constructive cooperation was established with the Ukrainian diaspora to help organize the treatment and rehabilitation of Ukrainian soldiers wounded in the hostilities in eastern Ukraine.

Another migration crisis in 2022 was triggered by the beginning of the Russian army's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In less than a year, more than 7.8 million people were forced to leave Ukraine. More than 1 million Ukrainian refugees found refuge in Germany [24, p.7]. The German volunteer movement selflessly took up the task of solving a whole range of problems related to the resettlement of migrants. A significant problem that complicated the adaptation of Ukrainians to the new cultural environment was the language barrier. Only 4% of migrants had a good knowledge of German, while 80% could hardly communicate [25].

For example, the Ukrainian community of Dortmund actively assisted the German volunteer organization *Bahnhofsmision* as translators and informants, whose activists helped Ukrainian refugees, choose the right train or buy a ticket [26]. The assistance of Ukrainian volunteers was also used by the largest charitable organizations – «Caritas» and «Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe». The social project «Caritas» created by the Catholic Church launched a nationwide project «Fair Integration» aimed at supporting large families and women with children, organizing language courses and legal counselling. The charitable foundation «Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe», owned by the Evangelical Church, specialized in providing refugees with affordable housing [27].

**Conclusions.** Thus, to summarize, first, we should note that volunteer movements in Ukraine and Germany have had a long and complicated path of development. In both countries, charity emerged as a reaction of the society to fundamental socio-economic changes that negatively affected the situation of financially disadvantaged groups of the population. It should be noted that Ukrainian and German societies have a specific historical experience of living under totalitarian political regimes, which left a certain imprint on the model of social behaviour of charity activists. In Ukraine and Germany, there was an extensive system of state-controlled non-governmental organizations that provided free assistance to people. The principles of organizing volunteer assistance were similar: charity was based on the free voluntary work of enthusiasts. The collapse of the so-called «socialist camp» led to the reformatting of the volunteer movement. Its ideology quickly lost political bias. The reunification of the Germany in 1990 allowed the volunteer movement to be realized in a new capacity, as a sign of the civil society of the united Germany. In Ukraine, charity events became evidence of

the society's desire to establish itself as an equal to the civilized part of humanity. The prolonged socio-economic crisis in post-Soviet Ukraine had a negative impact on the relations between public organizations and government authorities. The state structures were unable to respond promptly to the demands of society, and the sharp internal political struggle in the early 2000s marked the beginning of a new stage of politicization of the volunteer movement. However, for both countries, the common features of the development of charity in the late 20th and early 21st centuries were the gradual institutionalization of volunteer movement actors and the diversification of volunteer services to protect the legal, economic, environmental, and health interests of vulnerable social groups. An important factor that influenced the development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine and Germany was the process of globalization. On the one hand, it has opened up unprecedented opportunities for charity enthusiasts. The use of the Internet has made it possible to operate with available resources and establish contacts with like-minded people from around the world at an unprecedented speed. At the same time, the process of globalization has led to a number of challenges. Political, economic, and environmental crises of global size have become particularly dangerous for countries that, due to their geographical location, play the role of systemic geopolitical factors. As the events of the early 21st century have shown. Germany became a managerial country that was forced to promptly resolve the European migration crisis of 2015–2022. Ukraine had to take on the role of Europe's shield in the armed confrontation with Russia's neo-totalitarian political regime.

The study of the peculiarities of the development of the volunteer movement in Germany and Ukraine at the beginning of the 21st century suggests that the modern digitalization of social relations has turned the volunteer movement into a civilian version of rapid response forces. In the context of globalization, volunteer organizations have demonstrated the ability to successfully cooperate at the national and international levels. Ukrainian and German charitable organizations have become a kind of training center for capable and educated young people who can change the history of their countries. At the same time, national peculiarities of the volunteer movement should be taken into account. In Germany, during the second half of the 20th century, a system of volunteer management was formed with the assistance of the state. This is a strong point of the German volunteer movement. The accumulation and transfer of its experience is ensured at the state level. Figuratively speaking, in Germany, volunteers and officials know how to cooperate and trust each other.

In Ukraine, the volunteer movement is sporadic, its experience is highly individualized, and the official and volunteer build their relationship based on a situational alliance that is ready to break up at the moment when one of the parties considers it unprofitable. This is a drawback of Ukrainian volunteerism, which at the same time creates preconditions for its autonomy and ability to act

without state support, which is quite problematic for German colleagues.

By sharing responsibility for the fate of Ukrainian refugees, the Ukrainian and German volunteer movements have created the preconditions for strengthening business contacts, sharing experiences, and developing joint humanitarian projects. Given the extremely unstable political situation on the European continent, such a vector of effort can play an important role in strengthening the position of the European Union in confronting the Russian Federation and its allies.

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